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Agenda item 142

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Felipe **García Landa** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 30th and 34th meetings, on 14 and 29 March 2018. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2017 and programme of work for 2018 (A/72/34);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2017 (A/72/733);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Outcome of the review of the follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations by the United Nations system organizations" (A/72/704);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Outcome of the review of the follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations by the United Nations system organizations" (A/72/704/Add.1).

[1] A/C.5/72/SR.30 and A/C.5/72/SR.34.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.26

4. At its 34th meeting, on 29 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/72/L.26), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Japan.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.26 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 64/262 of 29 March 2010, 65/270 of 4 April 2011, 66/259 of 9 April 2012, 67/256 of 12 April 2013, 68/266 of 9 April 2014, 69/275 of 2 April 2015, 70/257 of 1 April 2016 and 71/281 of 6 April 2017,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

I
Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2017 and programme of work for 2018[2] and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2017,[3]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2017 and programme of work for 2018;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2017;[3]

3. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to comply fully with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and invites the executive heads of organizations participating in the Unit, to take the necessary measures to ensure that the thematic reports of the Unit are listed under the appropriate substantive agenda items of the work programmes of the General Assembly, other pertinent organs and bodies of the United Nations and the appropriate legislative organs of the other participating organizations;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within

[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/72/34).
[3] A/72/733.

the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

7. *Reaffirms* article 20 of the statute of the Unit,[1] in which it is stipulated that the Unit shall be invited to be represented at meetings when its budget estimates are being discussed;

8. *Recognizes* that the effectiveness of the Unit system-wide is a shared responsibility of the Unit, the Member States and the secretariats of the participating organizations;

9. *Also recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Unit on the management efficiency and transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

10. *Reiterates* its request to the Unit to consider optimizing the number of projects in its programme of work through prioritization;

11. *Also reiterates* its request to the Unit to continue to focus its reports on priority items of the participating organizations and the States Members of the United Nations, including by taking into consideration the programme of work of the General Assembly, with the aim of providing the Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with thematic reports of the Unit that can be used to maximum effect;

12. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue to share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of the audit and oversight bodies;

13. *Also welcomes* the completion of the migration of the web-based tracking system and the website of the Unit to platforms hosted by the United Nations Secretariat, and requests the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based tracking system of the Unit;

II

Outcome of the review of the follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations by the United Nations system organizations

Having considered the notes by the Secretary-General[4] drawing to the attention of the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Outcome of the review of the follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations by the United Nations system organizations"[5] and his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the notes by the Secretary-General;[4,6]

2. *Invites* the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to provide an in-depth analysis of how the recommendations of the Unit are being implemented;

[4] A/72/704.
[5] JIU/REP/2017/5.
[6] A/72/704/Add.1.

3. *Encourages* the heads of participating organizations to examine possible options for improving coordinated action, including through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in response to relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

4. *Reiterates* its invitation to the legislative organs of the participating organizations to fully consider, discuss and take concrete action in a timely manner on the relevant recommendations issued by the Unit, including follow-up, as appropriate, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/233;

5. *Requests* the executive heads of the participating organizations who have not yet done so to establish a direct reporting line from the Joint Inspection Unit focal points to top management.